

Message Text

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73

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OES-06 SAM-01 IO-13 /095 W

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R 151005Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8330

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL TANGIER

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

FOSIF ROTA

COMSIXTHFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 2079

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SP SS AG MR

SUBJECT: SPANISH-MOROCCAN RELATIONS: SPANISH AMBASSADOR SEES
IMPROVEMENT

1. DURING MY INITIAL COURTESY CALL APRIL 9, SPANISH AMBASSADOR
ALABART INDICATED SPANISH-MOROCCAN RELATIONS HAD RECENTLY
IMPROVED CONSIDERABLY DESPITE BRIEF PERIOD AT
END OF FEBRUARY WHEN THEY HAD BEEN "TOUCHY."

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2. BOU CRAA PHOSPHATES AGREEMENT HAD NOW BEEN WORKED OUT IN

FINAL FORM, ALABART INDICATED. IT HAD NOT YET BEEN SIGNED, BUT THERE WERE NO PROBLEMS. SPAIN WAS ALSO NEGOTIATING OTHER ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL AGREEMENTS, HE SAID.

3. QUERIED ABOUT FISHING NEGOTIATIONS, ALABART SAID THESE WOULD RESUME IN MADRID ON APRIL 21. NO MORE OBSTACLES WERE IN SIGHT, AND HE EXPECTED AN AGREEMENT ULTIMATELY TO BE REACHED.

4. COMMENT: WHILE ALABART NO DOUBT PUTTING CURRENT RELATIONS IN MOST FAVORABLE LIGHT, THERE ARE OTHER SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT. PRIVATE CRITICISM OF SPAIN BY MOROCCAN OFFICIALS, WHICH BECAME PREVALENT AT END FEBRUARY AFTER SPAIN HAD BALKED ON ENDORSING GOM CLAIM THAT SAHARA CONSULTATION HAD BEEN COMPLETED, HAS NOW SUBSIDED. RESUMPTION OF TWICE-DELAYED FISHING NEGOTIATIONS ALSO POINTS IN THIS DIRECTION, ALTHOUGH THESE NEGOTIATIONS LIKELY TO BE DIFFICULT FOR TECHNICAL REASONS.
ANDERSON

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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